

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An inkjet printer comprising:

ink cartridges which reserve ink supplied to an inkjet head; and

a pressurized air generating device which generates pressurized air supplied to the ink cartridges,

wherein the pressurized air generating device comprises a high pressure mode to generate pressurized air at predetermined pressure P1 and a low pressure mode to generate pressurized air at pressure P2 which is lower than the pressure P1.

2. The inkjet printer as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

an air discharge device which discharges air accumulated in supplying paths of the ink with the pressurized air; and

an ink vacuum device which vacuums the ink from the inkjet head,

wherein the pressurized air generating device is adapted to be in the high pressure mode when the air discharge device is used, and the pressurized air generating device is adapted to be in the low pressure mode to pressurized the ink when the ink vacuum device is used.

8. The inkjet printer as set forth in claim 2, wherein the air discharge device is adapted to be used while the pressurized air generating device is operated.

4. The inkjet printer as set forth in claim 2, wherein the ink is pressurized by the pressurized air generating device at least by the time when a vacuum of the ink is terminated in a usage of the ink vacuum device.

5. The inkjet printer as set forth in claim 2,  
wherein the pressurized air generating device is constituted with an air pump and a drive motor which drives the air pump, and

wherein rotational speed of the drive motor is kept at a constant speed and driving time of the drive motor is controlled according to capability of the air pump when the air discharge device is used.

6. The inkjet printer as set forth in claim 5, wherein the capability of the air pump is determined based on a correlative characteristic between the rotational speed of the drive motor and the air pressure generated by the air pump.

7. The inkjet printer as set forth in claim 5, wherein the driving time is further controlled according to ambient

temperature of the air pump.

8. The inkjet printer as set forth in claim 5, wherein the rotational speed of the drive motor is controlled according to the capability of the air pump when the ink vacuum device is used.

9. The inkjet printer as set forth in claim 8, wherein the capability of the air pump is determined based on the correlative characteristic between the rotational speed of the drive motor and the air pressure generated by the air pump.

10. The inkjet printer as set forth in claim 8, wherein the rotational speed is further controlled according to the ambient temperature of the air pump.

11. A maintenance method of inkjet printer comprising the steps of:

discharging air accumulated in ink supply paths of an inkjet printer with a pressurized air generating device constituted with an air pump and a drive motor which drives the air pump; and

vacuuming the ink from an inkjet head of the inkjet printer,

wherein pressure of pressurized air generated by the

pressurized air generating device is set at predetermined pressure P1 when the air discharge process is conducted, and is set at pressure P2 which is lower than the pressure P1 to pressurize the ink when the ink vacuum process is conducted.

12. The maintenance method of inkjet printer as set forth in claim 11, wherein, in the air discharging step, rotational speed of the drive motor is kept at a constant speed and driving time of the drive motor is controlled according to capability of the air pump.

13. The maintenance method of inkjet printer as set forth in claim 12, wherein the driving time is further controlled according to ambient temperature of the air pump.

14. The maintenance method of inkjet printer as set forth in claim 11, wherein, in the ink vacuuming step, the rotational speed of the drive motor is controlled according to the capability of the air pump.

15. The maintenance method of inkjet printer as set forth in claim 14, wherein the rotational speed is further controlled according to the ambient temperature of the air pump.